GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4579
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
PM MEETING WITH PAK PRESIDENT
RATTAN LAL KATARIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to hold talks with Pak President by our Prime Minister during the SAARC Summit to be held in January 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a)&(b) Prime Minister could meet the Heads of State or Heads of Government from SAARC countries who attend the forthcoming SAARC Summit at Kathmandu.

India has always been committed to establishing a productive dialogue with Pakistan and has continuously taken the initiative in this regard, including the Composite Dialogue established in 1998 and the invitation extended to President Musharraf for summit level talks which was held at Agra this July. The recent attack against the Parliament of India, by elements of a Pakistan based terrorist group actively sponsored by Pakistan`s intelligence agencies has, however, once again underscored the fact that Pakistan`s approach and attitude towards India remains unchanged. Pakistan must end its sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India in order to create an environment for a productive dialogue.